

~~SECRET~~

FINAL REPORT ON THE VISIT OF TICOM TEAM 5

TO THE SCHLIERSEE AREA

3rd AUGUST 1945 to 7th OCTOBER 1945

TICOM

31 October 1945

No. of Pages 9

DISTRIBUTION:

British

D.D.3.
H.C.G.
D.D.(N.S.)
D.D.(M.W.)
D.D.(A.S.)
C.C.R.
Commander Tandy
Major Morgan.

U.S.

OP-20-G (4) (via Lt.Cdr. Manson)
G-2 (via Lt.Col. Hilles)
A.S.A. (4) (via Major Seaman)
Director, S.I.D., USFET
Colonel Kunkel, USAAFE

TICOM

Chairman
S.A.C. (2)
Commander Bacon
Major Seaman
Lieutenant Commander Manson
Major Cowan
TICOM Files (4)

Additional

Lieutenant A.P. Fehl
Lieutenant E.J. Talbot-Ponsonby

Declassified and approved for
Release by NSA on 08-31-2010.
FOIA Case # 62136

RECORD COPY
DO NOT DESTROY OR RECLASSIFY

Do NOT Destroy Return to the
NSA Technical Library when no longer needed
5170
Fehl
Chow N.
Fehl

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

Team 5 ReportTABLE OF CONTENTS

PERSONNEL	Page 3
THE SCHLIERSEE PROJECT	
I. Purpose and Journey to the Site	Page 4
II. Preliminaries, First Stage, August 8th - 18th	Page 5
III. Preliminaries, Second Stage, August 18th to September 10th	Page 5
IV. Recovery of the Archives	Page 6
V. Transport to U.K., September 20th - October 5th	Page 7
THE CHIEMSEE RUMOUR	Page 8
THE BAD AIBLING PRISON CAMP	Page 8
A VISIT TO UNKEN	Page 9
THE FREISING P/W CAMP	Page 9

~~SECRET~~

- 3 -

Team 5 ReportPERSONNELTICOM

Lieutenant Evelyn J. Talbot-Ponsonby, R.N.V.R.
1st Lieutenant Alfred P. Fehl, Sig.C., A.U.S.

Signal Security Detachment 'D', USFET

Captain Richard J. Farricker, Sig.C., A.U.S.

Signal Intelligence Bn., 3rd Army

1st Lieutenant Gene R. Silber, Sig.C., A.U.S.

Diving Team supplied by 1051st Construction and Repair Group

1st Lieutenant Ted Leland, C.E., A.U.S.

M/Sgt. Daves, C.E., A.U.S.

T/Sgt. Sonnengren, C.E., A.U.S.

T/5 Cebula, C.E., A.U.S.

T/5 Butler, C.E., A.U.S.

Pfc. Pugilise, C.E., A.U.S.

Drivers supplied by Signal Security Detachment 'D', USFET, and
Signal Intelligence Bn., 3rd Army

T/4 Klotz, Sig.C., A.U.S.

Pfc. Campbell, Sig.C., A.U.S.

Pfc. Patton, Sig.C., A.U.S.

Pvt. Jaynes, Sig.C., A.U.S.

SECRET

- 4 -

Team 5 ReportTHE SCHLIERSEE PROJECTI. PURPOSE, AND JOURNEY TO THE SITE

The principal mission of TICOM Team 5 was to recover the archives of OKW/Chi, considered on good evidence to have been dumped in late April or early May into the Schliersee, a small lake in Bavaria, approximately 25 km. south of Rosenheim. (For brief history, see TICOM Situation Reports 11, 12, and 14-19). Previous information from members of TICOM Teams 4 and 6 (see Final Report of Team 4, pages 8-11, 18-21) had led TICOM to put in a request for divers to the appropriate authorities on 21st July 1945, but the urgency of the project was very much strengthened a few days later, when members of the Third U.S. Army, dragging the lake for the body of a drowned soldier, recovered a box of the archives. This box was in due course forwarded to TICOM by G-2 via S.I.D., USFET; in the meantime TICOM Team 5, consisting of Lieutenant Talbot-Ponsonby, R.N.V.R., and Lieutenant Fehl, U.S. Army, took off from Croydon at 0900 on the 4th of August, in order to be on the spot in the event of further recoveries. They arrived at the town of Schliersee, beside the lake, on August 8th, having spent the intervening time as follows.

They visited Paris in order to report to Colonel Cook, Ruesselsheim for discussion with Captain Lively (TICOM Liaison Officer at Signals Security Detachment 'D'); and Frankfurt for Occupational Area clearance from FIAT, as well as for detailed discussion with Lieutenant Commander Burton and Lieutenant Canby, U.S. Navy, and with Major Bundy (TICOM, S.I.D. USFET). They discussed the details of the projected diving, and they had to consider that the reported depth of the lake was 60 meters; that this depth, as pointed out in a signal from Colonel Cook, would call for a decompression chamber; that this device could work for not more than 45 minutes at a time; and that in accordance with Colonel Cook's signal, the depth should be resurveyed. Lieutenant Colonel Gronick, of G-2, was especially helpful in Frankfurt in getting the entire Team 5 (now augmented to include Captain Farricker of Detachment 'D', two drivers, a jeep, and a trailer) into an early plane to Holzkirchen (south of Munich) on the morning of August 7th.

From Holzkirchen the Team proceeded overland to Camp Goulette (near Rosenheim), H.Q. of Signal Intelligence Battalion (3rd Army Provisional). Lieutenant Silber, S-2 of the Battalion, who had been doing what he could to round up prisoners in the area for TICOM, made arrangements for the Team's communications to Detachment 'D'.

It was then necessary for Lieutenant Talbot-Ponsonby, Lieutenant Fehl, and Captain Farricker to drive to 3rd Army Intelligence Center at Freising for clearance for the 3rd Army Area. This excursion had the further value of a conversation with Major Digges, Enemy Document Section, who gave the Team a report on Schliersee written by a German diver employed there shortly after the recent dragging. This diver had gone down 30 feet. He reported bad conditions and a "mittlere Tiefe" of 60 meters.

On August 8th, Team 5 visited 3rd Army H.Q., and obtained from Lieutenant Colonel Fraser of the Engineers a promise that he would help sound the lake. The Team then went directly to Schliersee.

II. PRELIMINARIES, FIRST STAGE, AUGUST 8th - 18th

The first place the Team visited at Schliersee was Schloss Freudenberg, occupied at the time by 'A' Battery of the 575 Anti-Aircraft Artillery, at the northern end of the lake. The box recovered in the dragging had come from this end, and the shore was still littered with radios and teleprinters, as well as with a few papers having the appearance of low-grade intercept forms. No operations had been undertaken since the German diver's visit, and the Team's principal concerns were to get effective operations started and to get themselves locally established. Captain Farricker accordingly obtained from Captain Lovitt (C.O. of 'A' Battery) what later proved to be a valuable and accurate German map of the lake, with soundings clearly marked. Lieutenants Talbot-Ponsonby and Fehl arranged billets and mess with Captain McDermott, Commander of the 30th Field Hospital Unit in Schliersee; and Captain Farricker returned to Camp Goulette to take up his quarters with Lieutenant Silber. This divided billeting arrangement was thought to be the best, since communications were arranged through Lieutenant Silber, and since somebody had to stick with the job at the lake.

On August 9th, Team 4's efforts to trace Dr. Schaedel of OKW/Chi were followed up by an enquiry at C.I.C., which produced no results. Lieutenants Talbot-Ponsonby and Fehl then set about dragging the lake for the archives at the foot of the landslide on the west bank, about three quarters of a mile from Freudenberg. They very nearly raised something several times; but in each case the object, whatever it was, was too heavy to be brought to the surface without the aid of further gear.

On Friday, August 10th, the engineers arrived to take soundings. The German map proved accurate. The deepest part, about 120 feet, was in the middle. Depths in the two operational areas, however, ranged from 20 to 50 feet.

On Monday, August 13th, Commander Tyler, C.O. of a U.S. Navy diving unit at Le Havre, visited the lake and made a general survey - depth, bottom, and temperature. In his opinion, diving operations would not be difficult; nor did he think the Navy need handle the job. In the two operational areas - i.e. off Freudenberg and off the landslide - the Army pier engineers from Le Havre could cope.

After the Naval survey, Captain Farricker left on the 14th for Frankfurt, in accordance with his orders; and in accordance with his, Lieutenant Talbot-Ponsonby left for U.K. three days later, travelling by plane from Munich. This left Lieutenant Fehl as TICOM representative in charge at Schliersee, where he was joined by Captain Farricker on the 18th, who returned from Frankfurt to stay until diving operations had been completed.

III. PRELIMINARIES, SECOND STAGE, AUGUST 18th - SEPTEMBER 10th

Operations, as indicated by Captain Farricker on his return, were to begin soon. The 'Fremdenheim Florelle' in Schliersee was therefore reserved. On Sunday, August 26th, four N.C.O.s from the 86th Heavy Pontoon Engineers arrived and were housed there, mess being arranged with 'A' Battery at Freudenberg. They brought three heavy pontoons with them on trucks, and with the help of 40 members of 'A' Battery and a crane, launched the pontoons, set up a raft, and fixed outboard motors to it. It was hoped that the Pontoon Engineers would stay

until the end of operations and help generally, but they were called away on September 5th for redeployment to the States. They took their trucks with them, but left the pontoons and outboard motors to be picked up after they had served their purpose. Names of the engineers were: Sgt. Walczak, T/5 Rizzo, T/5 Wykoff, and T/5 Tuten.

In the meantime, Lieutenant Leland and M/Sgt. Daves of the 1051st Construction and Repair Group (Army Pier Engineers) had arrived in Schliersee on Sunday, September 2nd. They had been 4 days on the road from Le Havre, where they had been carrying out diving operations for some time. The rest of the party was due later. Like the Pontoon Engineers, they were housed in the 'Freudenheim Florelle' and obtained meals from 'A' Battery. The next day Lieutenant Leland took a survey of the equipment at hand and sent a signal to Colonel Martin at Le Havre, listing the equipment still needed. On Sunday, September 9th, the rest of the party, consisting of T/Sgt. Sonnengren, T/5 Cebula, T/5 Butler, and Pfc. Pugilise, arrived in Schliersee with the necessary equipment, and received quarters and rations with the others. Of the group, M/Sgt. Daves and T/Sgt. Sonnengren were to do the diving. Both had considerable civilian, as well as Army, experience in this capacity. Ordinary divers' helmets and suits were to be used. They did not have a decompression chamber, since there was no possibility of operational depths exceeding 100 feet. Work was to be limited to the areas at Freudenberg and the landslide, since they were the only places that could be pin-pointed as likely. Lieutenant Leland said that an observation chamber would be necessary for a complete underwater survey of the lake.

IV. RECOVERY OF THE ARCHIVES, SEPTEMBER 11th - 20th

After setting up the equipment on the raft on Monday, diving operations began on Tuesday, September 11th and ended the next Monday, September 17th. The first area worked was the place in front of Freudenberg, where the two previous boxes had been obtained. The raft was anchored about 100 feet from the shore, where the deep water suddenly began. The water between the shore and the raft was only about 3 feet deep; then a steep slope which brought the water to a depth of between 40 and 50 feet. Diving conditions were not so good as had been expected, since the divers had to wade in a mud bottom more than knee deep. The water, while not muddy, was not clear, and objects were not easily discernible on the bottom. Many boxes were almost completely buried in mud. All in all, 28 boxes of OKW/Chi documents and effects were obtained from this location, where the divers covered an area of approximately 450 x 100 feet. The boxes were found in an area of about 100 x 50 feet within the area explored. Most of the material was found below the slope, in from 30 to 50 feet of water. To judge from the divers' description, the Germans had done a rush job of dumping, probably from boats, and the findings fairly well substantiated the account given by OKW/Chi personnel in TICOM/I-85, para. 5 d.

The second area explored, that by the landslide, produced no Signal Intelligence material. Seven boxes were recovered from this area, after the divers had combed it thoroughly. A cursory examination revealed documents and equipment belonging to an SS Artillerie Schule. The area covered was about 300 x 100 feet. The water was about 20 feet deep immediately off shore and rapidly dropped to a depth of 50 or 60 feet. It was not far out from here that the deepest part of the lake began. The bottom, while it was not so muddy as the Freudenberg area, was littered with mortar and artillery shells. The entire effects of the SS Artillerie Schule had apparently been dumped into the lake from the shore.

In every instance the material was lifted from the water by means of a small hand crane which was fastened to the raft. From the raft it was put into a boat and taken to a convenient place on shore, where it was lifted to a 2½ ton truck, taken to the Signal Intelligence Battalion at Camp Goulette, and there stored and secured in a large vault. Many of the 35 boxes were in unserviceable condition, and by the time they had been loaded into trucks and out again, and carried to the vault, they were falling apart. Five new and larger boxes were therefore made at a nearby P/W camp, and the contents of 17 unserviceable ones were packed into them. The remainder, 18, were examined, and 2 of them, found to contain mere generators and no documents, discarded on the spot. The total haul was thus reduced to 21 boxes, of which 5 were new and strong, and of which the 16 were then reinforced and sealed for transport. (In accordance with instructions received from TICOM, every effort was made to get the documents back to U.K. as soon as they could be moved, and this with a minimum amount of handling. From the standpoint both of security and of practicability, drying at the site was impossible.)

The haul was then disposed of as follows. On Sunday, September 16th, the 5 large boxes and 7 of the smaller ones were sent by road to Detachment 'D' at Ruesselsheim with Lieutenants Bratton and Kelly of S.I.D., USFET. On Wednesday, 19th September, the 9 remaining boxes were loaded into a 2½ ton truck newly-arrived from Detachment 'D', and at 0730 on September 20th, Lieutenant Fehl and Captain Farricker were on their way to Ruesselsheim with this final consignment. They arrived there at 1730 and secured the entire haul.

The time intervening at Schliersee between arrivals and departures of trucks had been used to release the 'Freudenheim Florelle', the pontoon equipment, and the divers.

V. TRANSPORT TO U.K., SEPTEMBER 24th - OCTOBER 5th

On Monday, 24th September, at Ruesselsheim, Lieutenant Fehl opened all the boxes and made a further survey of the contents. He discarded 2 of the SS chests, not examined thoroughly before and now found to contain nothing but stones and artillery shell cross-sections. Colonel Cook, eager to have the material reach U.K. as quickly as possible, directed that the remaining 19 boxes be weighed and measured for air shipment, and to this consignment he added one large chest and two mail bags, containing documents of TICOM interest. Total space: 188 cubic feet. Total weight: 8162 lbs. Transport officials at Field Y-74 gave their assurance that 2 C-47s could cope easily with the heavy concentration of weight, and Lieutenant Whitney (Detachment 'D' TICOM liaison officer) and Captain Harrison of Colonel Cook's office made the necessary arrangements. The planes took off from Y-74 at noon on Friday, 5th October, landed at Poix, France, to await notice of clearance of an airfield in the London-Oxford area, where bad weather was prevailing at the time, took off from Poix at 1600 the same day, and arrived at Biggin Hill at 1715. Captain Sarber, of Detachment 'D', and Lieutenant Fehl, TICOM officer in charge, were the two couriers. Under Lieutenant Fehl's direction and custody, Royal Navy trucks supplied by TICOM, and drivers supplied by the 6813th Signal Detachment, U.K. Base, brought the haul from the airport to its destination.

THE CHIEMSEE RUMOUR

While Team 5 was at Freising, Major Digges mentioned a rumour that documents were floating on the Chiemsee. No further information could be obtained, however, since Captain Gerber, the only person who might give definite information about it, was away. On Friday, 10th August, Team 5 visited the Chiemsee area to investigate on their own. They visited the S-2s of the various units stationed in the area, but with no results. The next morning, after more futile inquiry, Lieutenant Talbot-Ponsonby phoned Major Digges, who said that there was nothing to substantiate the rumour.

THE BAD AIBLING PRISON CAMP

A signal from Lieutenant Colonel Hiser at Detachment 'D', received on the 13th of August, asked for an immediate visit to the Bad Aibling Transit P/W Camp. Reason: Oberst Kettler had stated that 21 Section Heads of OKW/Chi, including such important personalities as Fenner, Novopashni, Menzer, Wendland, Stein, Seifert, Franz, Rohen, and Schaedel, had been under the control of Corps Group Bork at Weinenlinden, near Bad Aibling, and were being held as prisoners there on July 19th. On Tuesday, 14th August, Lieutenants Talbot-Ponsonby and Fehl went to the camp there to investigate. A search through the papers of some 2,000 men who had been discharged since that time produced no information. The only possible exception was a Paul Schaedel, Beamter in the Kriegsmarine, who had been discharged on 6th August 1945. His home address was Kiel 24, Hansastr. 4. A visit to the cages produced little more. A muster was called at each cage by the Lagerfuehrer. In the "Black List Cage" one of the P/Ws remembered a Stein who had been discharged to hospital. He was supposed to have a good understanding of English. When asked what the man had done in the Army, the P/W said he had worked in Nachrichten Aufklaerung, and that he lived at Bruttig bei Cochem, Mosel, and was the son-in-law of a wine merchant there, named Hess. A search through the list of newly-arrested prisoners produced the name Doering. This name had a familiar ring and gave some hope for the next day. Doering, however, proved to be a Feldwebel in the Infantry, not the Wachtmeister Dr. Doering in whom TICOM was interested. Inquiries about Corps Group Bork produced little more. Several of the camp authorities knew that it had been discharged with the First Army (German) nearby, but such discharge centres had become non-existent and the records transferred through the Bad Aibling Transit Camp to a Machine Records Unit.

As a last resort the German Generals' quarters were visited, but no helpful information could be obtained there.

After seeing Lieutenant Talbot-Ponsonby off at Munich, Lieutenant Fehl investigated the files of Machine Records Unit No. 39, which handled the records of P/Ws from the Third Army Area. The records had not yet been brought up to date and none of the cards there gave any helpful information. It is possible that the cards had been sent on to the Kreise into which the P/Ws were discharged, but there was no master record which told of which Kreis to look for.

A VISIT TO UNKEN

On August 22nd, Lieutenant Fehl went to Unken, Austria, to contact Dr. Lenz, formerly of the General der Nachrichten Aufklaerung, who was supposed to be working for the Military Government there. A talk with the Burgomeister revealed that Dr. Lenz had left for Ahrendorf, Schleswig-Holstein, on the 14th of July.

The Burgomeister then referred Lieutenant Fehl to Obgefr. Hansa, who succeeded Lenz as interpreter with a unit of the 101st Airborne Division. Hansa was found at the headquarters of the 42nd Recon. Troop of the 42nd Division which had replaced the 101st Airborne a short time before. Hansa said that Lenz had left about the 14th of July for his home in Hamburg. Hansa had known Lenz well, since both had worked together in a unit of the Gen.d.N.A., Lenz as a translator of French, and Hansa as a translator of English, at Unken. His description of Lenz, rank, physical characteristics, and organization, was pretty close to that of Uffz. Lenz, 93/41, of the original Black List. It is interesting to note, however, that in other references to both Hansa and Lenz, they were listed under the "mathematics" section of the Gen.d.N.A. (See a Joint Recce and Interrogation of Dr. Lenz, made by Lieutenant Colonel Thompson, Major C.T. Coffey, and 1st Lieutenant Berwind, 4th July 1945).

Hansa had never heard of Dr. Leerscher, who was also supposed to be with the Gen.d.N.A. and living somewhere in the Unken area. Six days later Lieutenant Fehl returned to Unken to give Hansa a more thorough interrogation. This is published in the TICOM I-Series, as TICOM/I-122.

THE FREISING P/W CAGE

When Team 5 was at the 3rd Army Intelligence Center at Freising, they were informed of Ludwig Wang, formerly employed by OKW/Chi, who was being held there in the P/W cage. Wang, however, did not prove to be valuable. In 1942 he had worked in OKW/Chi at Tirpitzufer 84, under Herr Krause and Oberst Kaehler, and was responsible for translating English broadcasts into German. He had nothing to do with decodes - only monitoring. It was agreed that since he had been away from the organization since 1942 and had nothing to do with cryptography in the first place, he should be released.

On Monday, 20th August, Lieutenant Fehl accompanied Lieutenant Silber to Freising to help check a Herr Seegers, former employee of the Foreign Office under Gesandter Selchow. He had had some experience as an encoder and decoder of German messages going to and from the Foreign Office. He described several simple cryptographic systems used and laid much stress on their one-time pad which he said was absolutely unbreakable. He had done nothing on the cryptanalytic side. He spoke English fluently and said he was particularly interested in gaining a position where he could help convert his countrymen into a democratic and peace-loving people. He did not seem well-informed for TICOM purposes and it was agreed that he should be released to a job where he could readily be obtained if wanted. Like Wang, his whereabouts is being obtained from Freising.

Hauptm. Boedingheimer, however, looked extremely interesting. It was agreed that he should be taken where he could be fully interrogated by experts. He was later transferred to Oberursel.